

# Abroad

## Brussels

### *Getting Out*

Getting out of the European Economic Community is easier said than done, at least in the case of Greenland, that enormous island off the northeastern coast of North America, which has a human population of only fifty thousand but an immense fish population in its coastal waters. Greenland went into the EEC as part of Denmark. But it is now an independent country and no longer shares the Danish view of world economic advantages. However, other EEC members do not want to lose Greenland's fish, and although the island voted to leave the community 16 months ago, negotiations to effect its withdrawal have been hard to start. West Germany, especially, says its deep-sea fishing fleet needs Greenland's territorial waters, and that if Greenland withdraws, the new common-fisheries policy hammered out among EEC members, as well as the finely drawn system of quotas and catches now in operation, may have to be dismantled and rewritten. Since fishing rights have been one of the most serious causes of intra-community dissension—up to and including resort to force of arms—this threat is not lightly regarded by anyone, especially not Greenland's prime minister, Jonathan Motzfeldt. The Danish foreign minister, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, finds himself in the middle. He says that other members are prepared to accord Greenland the power to withdraw as a democratic right, but they are not making it easy because of "economic considerations." He is also aware that if Greenland leaves, this might be interpreted as a precedent by some more substantial community member, but he maintains that there could be no comparable case.

## Havana

### *Help from France*

Two teams of French transportation experts will soon arrive in Havana to help solve some of the Castro government's traffic problems, according to an announcement following the recent visit here of French Transport Minister Charles Fiterman. The expense of the missions will be shared by the two countries. French technical assistance in developing the Cuban road system is also foreseen in the agreement, as well as a return visit by a high-ranking Cuban delegation to Paris to inspect the current state of French urban transportation.

## Venice

### *Pay as You See*

The mayor of Venice has come up with a novel idea for preserving his city for—and from—tourists: require them to pay an entry fee before they set foot within its precincts. Venice has been the most publicized victim of modern curiosity and admiration as represented by the crush of millions of tourists. Their weight makes the sinking city sink faster. The wash of the motorboats required to take them along the canals undermines the foundations of ancient churches and palaces. The motorboats' fumes erode statues and façades. And the pilgrims' footsteps literally wear away the city's fragile stones. Under Mayor Mario Rigo's plan, each tourist would buy an inclusive ticket that would

admit him to the city's museums and other monuments that now charge separate admissions. The tourist would then embark on a *vaporetto*, which would ferry him to the city's center via outlying or little-used canals. The Grand Canal, the city's main artery, would be restricted to gondolas or other craft powered only by oars. The plan would also enable city authorities to control the total number of tourists in Venice at a given time, keeping the limit to something like ten thousand per day. There are now about twenty thousand tourists in Venice on any given day at the peak of the season, and that is too many.

## Athens

### *Giving a Fig Leaf*

The Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church has launched a campaign against nudity on Greek beaches this summer because it "constitutes not just a provocation but a brutal assault on the good morals of the Greek people." The Synod's battle is with the Greek national tourist organization, which had said that nudist camps could be set up wherever local inhabitants did not object to them. Ordinarily, nude swimming and sunbathing would be punishable by up to six months' imprisonment or a fine; on some islands, however, a blind eye has been turned to such camps because of their popularity among foreign tourists. A few years ago, a German nudist colony had to give up its lease on a hotel in the eastern Peloponnese because of church-inspired agitation against its practices. The Socialist government of the country is trying to settle the controversy by setting aside specific areas for nude swimming, completely away from villages and towns, as a gesture of respect to the feelings of the locals. "If anyone claims to be offended," says Nikos Skoulas, secretary general of the tourist board, "we will know he was using binoculars."

## London

### *Special Effects*

The *Times* letters column has been full of reaction to various aspects of the British role in India and the final departure of the Raj as portrayed in the movie *Gandhi* ever since it opened here several months ago. But no one, until the paper published a communication from Sir Charles Mott-Radclyffe of Norwich, caught the point that the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, an old Etonian, is shown in the film wearing a Harrow necktie.



Mac, *London Daily Mail*

Rothco